(d) The initiatives of the Government for achieving the literacy target include:—

(1) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to achieve universalization of elementary education. The objectives of SSA are :

— All children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, 'Back-to-School' camp by 2003

— All children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007

— All children complete eight years of elementary schooling by 2010

— Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life

— Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010

— Universal retention by 2010

(2) The literacy schemes of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) have been restructured to achieve continuity, efficiency and convergence in the implementation of the Literacy Campaigns and expansion in the scope of the Continuting Education programme.

— NLM aims to achieve a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy by 2007.

Contribution of NRIs for higher education to Central Government fund

†620. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked those non-resident Indians, who have made contribution to the concerned institutions for higher education, to pay money only in 'Central Government fund';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the impact of Government's decision on the assistance to be provided to these educational institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Quality improvement scheme in schools

621. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are ensuring optimal utilisation of the funds under the scheme of quality improvement in schools;

(b) what is the total actual utilisation of funds under the scheme or its earlier format in last three years and till June end in current financial year; and

(c) what are the physical targets achieved under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, in the present format, the efforts are being made for optimal utilisation of funds. The scheme of "Quality Improvement in Schools" is under finalisation.

(b) The details of total actual utilisation of funds under the present format of the scheme are given in the Statement enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) The outcome of the scheme are long term and qualitative in nature. It is difficult to quantify outcome.